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Column One by David Courtney

ONE supposes that Mr. Eden was right; and that so were Mr. Bidwell and Mr. Dulles; and that Mr. Molotov was not far wrong. The trouble is that a combination of irreconcilable right judgments at the national level can be as dangerous to the peoples down below as a clash between right and wrong. If this fact is recognized at Berlin, there may be a chance that the irreconcilable diagnosis of the world's ills and the conflicting responsibilities of what is needed to cure or at least allay them, will be modified all round to a point where the patient will be able to feel that at any rate there is hope of survival.

AT first glance the Russian method seems nearer to the heart's desire," wrote "The Times." The idea of an all-embracing conference to deal in turn with recognizable causes of tension wherever they may be is not a bad idea. It is the idea that Sir Winston, in his speech last May, to make proposals for "top-level" meetings without an agenda and without cohorts of professional advisers in attendance. But even Sir Winston was careful to suggest the way of piecemeal progress toward general settlement. Presumably that is what Mr. Eden had in mind when he urged "the doctrine of limited objectives" on the Berlin conference.

ALTHOUGH the three Westerners had co-ordinated their methods of approach to the conference there are, of course, differences of emphasis and perhaps even of motive. Britain's preference for the piecemeal method derives from the pragmatic habits of her political life. France sides with the U.S. for obvious reasons and because she probably has more faith in the Berlin prospects than the other two Western Powers have. For the United States Berlin is not — as much of the agreement would suggest — an alternative to the wider Five-Power conference, but is a test of whether any further conferences are likely to be of use. Besides, the Five-Power conference proposed by Russia would inevitably force the issue of China's recognition by the U.S. and its allies. Members of the U.S. Administration are now said to be moving cautiously towards a more flexible attitude to this question; but Mr. Dulles would cast out caution and dangerously provoke American public opinion if he were to give in at this stage to Mr. Molotov's demands.

IN any event, and although Mr. Molotov had some truth on his side when he described the German question as only a symptom of wider tensions, it is plain that Germany must be left out of any piecemeal symptoms. If it should come to a settlement at Berlin, there would be hardly any proposal for subsequent meetings of the Powers, four or five, that would not be generally approved. If the conference should founder on the German question, there would be no hope left, at least for the time being, for a settlement of any of the other world issues.

THAT is why a German settlement of sorts is desperately needed. It is why one hopes that the western Foreign Ministers have gone to Berlin with a reserve plan to bring out if their preferred plan, as outlined recently by Mr. Eden and as evidently agreed with the others, fails. Such a plan, if it can be found, should fail to convince Mr. Molotov. It is clear that there will be no compromise on the principle of free all-German elections in advance of an all-German Government and it is improbable that the western Ministers will be able to agree on the right of an all-German Government to enter into any alliance it pleases. The Soviet, if willing to concede the first principle may be adamant in its rejection of the second. What then? Are the Powers to retire behind their lines with fresh hope to renew their hope for suspicion and a tendency to consolidate the tensions of a divided Germany, a divided Europe, a divided Asia, a divided world? It is easy to be cleverly cynical about the prospects of the Berlin conference and to guess that anything with half a political eye can foretell that the conference will be a waste of time. It might be more helpful to foretell what will happen if Berlin turns out to be, indeed, a waste of time. It is fair to guess that the four Foreign Ministers will be anxious in that event and therefore will not waste their time if they can help it.

IF a unified Germany is satisfactory and creditable to all the Powers should be impossible — and that is a likelihood of which the Foreign Ministers are certainly aware — some modus vivendi between the two halves of the country, and even between the two halves of Europe, is the least the world has a right to expect, with an increase in routine measures of co-operation and a formulated live-and-let-live arrangement. It would have to be within a pattern of reliable security guarantees for all the members of Europe. Let there that might not yet end to the hopes that have been steadily rising among men during the past six months or more; and take us back again to the sullen drudgery of the cold war.

Jerusalem, January 27.

Molotov Agenda Accepted But Chances for Big 5 Small

Dulles: US Won't Meet with China

BERLIN, Tuesday (Reuters). — Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov today suggested next May or June for a Big Five meeting, including the People's Republic of China, to discuss the easing of world tension. He made his proposal despite a flat warning in advance by U.S. Secretary of State Dulles that America would never attend such a meeting.

The rift at the Berlin conference of the four Foreign Ministers came into the open at their second session here today.

Mr. Molotov announced his move after the three Western Ministers had accepted the three-point agenda he proposed yesterday, which put the questions of Germany and Austria after the proposal for Big Five talks. However, Mr. Dulles, who announced Western acceptance of the Soviet agenda blueprint, made it plain that the West agreed to deal with and "dispose" of this item first in order to avoid futile arguments.

Tomorrow all four Ministers will make statements on the first item of the agenda — measures to reduce international tension and the convening of a five-power conference, a British spokesman said.

Mr. Dulles in his speech today made it clear that the U.S. rejects "the Soviet concept that any so-called five-power powers have the right to rule the world and to determine the destinies of other nations."

Replies 5-Power Talks

Speaking before Mr. Molotov, the U.S. Secretary of State said: "I would like to state here plainly and unequivocally what the Soviet Foreign Minister already knows. The U.S. will not be able to join in a five-power conference with the Chinese Communists for the purpose of dealing generally with the peace of the world."

While calling Mr. Molotov's speech yesterday a profound disappointment, Mr. Dulles nevertheless accepted his proposal to resume discussion to avoid wasting time.

Speaking next, French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault said: "The Soviet agenda is not the one I wanted to propose. It is drafted in terms with which I am not in agreement.

"But since what we are looking for, above all, is the success of the conference, I am ready for my part in my own interest and in the interest of our harmony and the fruitful development of our work to consider it as the list of questions which we shall examine.

It should be understood, however, that this shall in no way prejudice our position and that the text shall not be held up against us at any moment in the conference as proving the we have accepted implicitly any of the fundamental theses of the Soviet delegation."

Mr. Molotov, who replied before today's session, criticised the three Western Foreign Ministers for their seeming unwillingness to open to consideration any problems creating tension in the world today. He said the Foreign Ministers had not met in Berlin to make speeches and then consider the matters at issue closed.

Rather, they had come to (Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

US Seen Dropping Plan For Turco-Iraqi-Pakistani Pact

By JESSE ZEL LURIE, Jerusalem Post Correspondent
NEW YORK, Tuesday. — "The New York Times" predicts that a defense pact between the U.S. and Turkey will be signed during the visit here of Turkish President Celal Bayar, who arrived today.

The proposal to include Iraq and Saudi Arabia seems abandoned and the American Zionist Council today discussed whether to continue projects aimed at arousing opinion against the Arab states.

The original proposal may have been a smokescreen intended to invite widespread editorial criticism against the Arab states, thus uncovering Saudi protests against alienating India and South-East Asia by arming Pakistan.

On Friday last, a Western draft resolution on the subject was defeated by a Soviet vote.

The American delegation to the United Nations was drafting a new text for submission to the Council when this body again decided to postpone this debate. According to reliable reports, this text will take into account the wishes expressed during the last session by Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General, and the Arab states.

Mr. Eric Johnston told this reporter today that he did not expect any results from his second Middle East tour in February on the proposal for utilizing the waters of the Jordan. He intends to talk about the plan and answer criticisms, and expects he will make several more trips before agreement is reached.

Mr. Johnston is making widespread radio, television and press propaganda for his plan here.

The Lebanon rejects reported bid by Hammarskjold

The Lebanon Government has instructed its chief U.N. delegate, Dr. Charles Malik, to reject the U.N. Secretary-General's proposal that the Lebanon act as a mediator between the Secretary-General and Jordan (not a member state of the U.N.), in order to persuade the latter to accept his invitation for direct talks with Israel.

(UPI, Reuters)

UN May Reconvene On Syrian Plight Tomorrow

UNITED NATIONS, Tuesday (UPI). — The Security Council may reconvene on Thursday afternoon to examine two Lebanon draft resolutions pending before it on the Syrian-Israel dispute over the Jordan river diversion project.

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His next public appearance will be at the annual conclave of the American Friends of the Middle East here on Friday. He will speak to the American Christian Palestine Committee, which invited him to speak at its Washington conference in the middle of February. Mr. Byrnes decided he would speak at neither affair in the Middle East.

However, he will be in New York on Saturday evening to pay tribute to his old friend, Mr. Jacob Blaustein, who is retiring after five years as head of the American Jewish Com-

mittee. (UPI, Reuters)

Spanish Students Revile Police Chief in Demonstration

MADRID, Tuesday (Reuters).

Police made repeated baton charges today to clear thousands of students from Madrid's main thoroughfare in the second day of a demonstration against Queen Elizabeth's forthcoming visit to Gibraltar.

The students began demonstrating in a "procession of silence" as a mourning for a student said to have been killed in yesterday's rioting.

Later, about 2,000 demonstrators marched in front of police headquarters in the square of Puerta del Sol and shouted insults at the Police Chief, General Rafael Hierro.

They demanded that he resign and called him vile names. It was the first time since General Franco's regime assumed power that the General has been publicly insulted.

Today's demonstrators made little mention of Gibraltar and they were mostly against the police. Observers said yesterday that in this connection the Federal Government "availed itself of the contractual provision permitting a \$600. limit to deliveries for the forthcoming period."

Students from the balcony of Police Headquarters came out shortly after noon and some student leaders came out on the balcony. Then General Hierro came out, a sturdy man with a balding head.

Not Given to Speak

A storm of hissing and boozing greeted his appearance, and he was unable to make himself heard. He turned on his heel and went inside.

The crowd cheered scores of copies of today's Falange newspaper, "Arriba," because it had not condemned the action of the police in preventing the students from reaching the British Embassy yesterday and in using falangists in the university.

Demonstrating students forced their way into the Radio Madrid building today and held up broadcasting for some time until police drove them out.

The students demanded to be allowed to broadcast their own news and to condemn the actions of the police.

Students also demonstrated in front of the Ministry of Justice shouting, "We want justice."

More students were arrested.

In London, Israel's Foreign Office spokesman said today that Sir John Balfour, British Ambassador in Madrid, has been instructed to protest to Spain about damage done to British property in Madrid, Barcelona and Havana yesterday's demonstrators had helped implement.

"Only a short while ago we had to issue some words of regret about this attitude when reparations actually began to appear as an important factor in our economic stability. With all these factors, which Mapam had opposed, this country would have faced economic disaster," Mr. Sharrett said.

Turning to Dr. Sneh, the Prime Minister vigorously rebutted his charge that the U.S. Grant-in-Aid tended to subjugate Israel to that country.

Dr. Sneh had claimed that Israel is forced to purchase the U.S. at inflated prices above those ruling in world markets.

This, he said, was to restrict our freedom, had pa-

ralyzed our exports and caused unemployment.

Purchases Not Restricted

Mr. Sharrett asked the Knesset to consider the charges in light of the following facts: Imports from the U.S. are 50% but only 30%. Israel was definitely free to buy in any country she wished and there had never been any clash with the U.S. over the Government's complete discretion in this matter.

What Israel bought from the U.S. was voluntary because the price, quality or class of goods was right. We bought nothing that was superfluous or which was superfluous or which we could produce locally.

The main imports were fuel, cotton and wheat, heavy equipment, arts and machinery, none of which was produced in Israel in the required quantities.

Mr. Sharrett added that Israel's purchase of 32m. of wheat from Finland was an indication of her freedom to purchase where she wanted. When we had tried to buy wheat from the USSR we could not do so because the price asked was 20% higher than that fixed by the International Wheat Council of which we are members. On the other hand when wheat was scarce and illegal.

Today comes a further hint that the British Government is contemplating international action; of what kind is not indicated. Meanwhile, there are suggestions that Israel could help to end the blockade of the Suez Canal.

Replies 5-Power Talks

MOSCOW, Tuesday (Reuters). — Mr. Kostin, head of the fuel division of the Soviet Ministry, arrived here last night to discuss the purchase of crude oil by Israel. The transaction was already agreed in principle during talks earlier this month.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

Britain Prefers Israel to Take UN Action Against Suez Blockade

By GEORGE LICHTHEIM, London Post Correspondent

London, Tuesday. — The British Foreign Office, which has been instrumental in bringing about the present situation in the Suez Canal, has now decided to take a stand on the matter.

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New Cabinet Sworn In; Confidence Vote: 75-23

Sharett's Reply to Debate

Mr. Moshe Sharett began his answer to the debate in the Knesset last night by expressing the hope that the Coalition, which had been formed after so much deliberation, would, in the expectation of those who comprise it, rest on a stable and permanent foundation until the next elections in 1955.

He regretted the failure of their efforts to retain the Progressive, and said that their endeavours would continue. He would have been happy also to have been able to announce the adherence of both the Mapam and the parties of the Agudat Yisrael to the coalition. This could not be, however, they were entitled to congratulate themselves on the measure of national unity which had been attained in the coalition.

Today's demonstrators made little mention of Gibraltar and they were mostly against the police. Observers said yesterday that in this connection the Federal Government had interfered to represent the interests of Falangists.

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